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## General

Mexico is located in Middle America and borders the United States to the N and Belize and Guatemala to the S.

The Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico are the bodies of water to its E and the North Pacific Ocean lies to its W.

Mexico, with an area of 758,062 square miles, including the peninsula of Baja California, comprises one of the richest and most varied zones in the world. Its lengthy coastline measures 4,500 miles on the Pacific Coast.

The Pacific coastal states described are Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Chiapas.

The climate in the N is arid to semiarid and this section of the country tends to experience extremes in temperature.

The S and Yucatan peninsula are tropical climates and are generally humid.

The terrain is high, rugged mountains, low coastal plains, with high plateaus, and desert.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the New Mexican peso, consisting of 100 centavos.

## Firing Areas

South of Isla de Guadalupe:

- 28°46'N, 118°22'W.
- 28°46'N, 118°12'W.
- 28°40'N, 118°12'W.
- 28°40'N, 118°22'W.

Northeast of Guaymas:

- 28°10.0'N, 111°48.5'W.
- 28°16.0'N, 111°39.0'W.
- 28°08.0'N, 111°32.0'W.
- 28°02.0'N, 111°42.0'W.

South of Isla Maria Cleofas:

- 21°04'N, 106°09'W.
- 21°14'N, 106°09'W.
- 21°14'N, 106°23'W.
- 21°04'N, 106°23'W.

Southeast of Puerto Arista:

- 15°46.2'N, 93°40.0'W.
- 15°40.2'N, 93°32.0'W.
- 15°35.5'N, 93°35.7'W.
- 15°41.5'N, 93°43.5'W.

## Government

Mexico is a constitutional republic. The legislative power of the Republic of Mexico is vested in a congress, a senate, and a President elected by popular vote.

The administration is carried out under the direction of the President, a cabinet, the attorney general, and the heads of three departments.

The capital is Mexico City.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; February 5, Constitution Day; March 21, Benito Juarez's Birthday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; May 5, Battle of Puebla; September 16, Independence Day; October 12, Columbus Day; November 2, All Soul's Day; November 20, Revolution Day; and December 25, Christmas Day.

## Industries

The primary industries are tourism, tobacco, food and beverages, iron and steel, petroleum, textiles, clothing, and motor vehicles.

## Languages

The official language of Mexico is Spanish, but many dialects of Mayan are spoken.

## Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for all foreign vessels, including government vessels, of over 30 tons. The charges for a pilot are made in accordance with the tariff in effect and by gross tonnage and draft. When service is effected outside the limits of the port, there is a charge for every 25 kilometers or fraction thereof. The same tariff applies to merchant and naval vessels.

The pilot and launch fees are charged whether a pilot is employed or not. Pilots will not conduct a vessel at night except by advance request to the Port Captain.

Vessels should forward their ETA as soon as possible. The ETD should be sent at least 6 hours prior to sailing.

## Regulations

All vessels will be boarded on arrival by a health official, the port captain, and a customs officer.

The maritime authorities will require arrival messages to include the last port clearance, passenger list, crew list, deck logbook, and customs manifest to be stamped with a visa by a Mexican Consulate or Embassy.

On departure vessels must submit the request for clearance, list of passengers embarked, crew list, and Articles of Agreement, and stores list.

## Search and Rescue

The Mexican Navy coordinates search and rescue operations. Radio stations at Mazatlan and Manzanillo maintain continuous listening watches on international distress frequencies.

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers have been established at Ensenada, Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Acapulco, and Salina Cruz.

There are Maritime Rescue Subcenters that are situated at La Paz, Guaymas, Lazaro Cardenas, Puerto Madero, and Isla Socorro.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone descriptions are SIERRA (+6) and TANGO (+7).

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, 06500 Mexico, Distrito Federal.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 3087, Laredo, TX 78044-3087.